

I decided to undertake the IAM Advanced Motorcycle course due to a drop in confidence in my riding following a few years of numerous shoulder operations, recovery and limited time on my motorcycle, and felt it was time to learn and polish up the skills necessary to be both confident and safe whilst riding.

As soon as I joined arrangements were made to allocate me an Observer and I began my sessions towards the end of April.

My Observer was changed after two sessions due to holiday commitments and I continued my training with Mark. I had three more sessions with him before undertaking my pre-test and confirming that I was ready for test. Whilst I was ready for test, I was striving for a F1rst and opted for one further session with Mark to ensure application the advice from my pre-test.

I thoroughly enjoyed my sessions with Mark who was both friendly and professional, and made understanding the advanced techniques and learning clear and easy to apply. Together with his patience, sense of humour and experience he massively contributed to building back up my confidence and riding skills. He provided constructive and clear feedback, and praise when he found he was no longer able to find fault! ☺. I was very pleased with getting to learn from Mark who gave up valuable personal time to support me.

I reciprocated that willingness and trust, by putting in the time and effort with daily practising in-between sessions, whether they were short commuting trips to work during the week or longer forays into the Peak District or to Wales on weekends. The combination of structured sessions with specific subject goals and feedback, to work on and practice, together with regular varied practice sessions were a must in order to learn, apply and become a consistent and natural advanced rider.

Advanced riding techniques cannot simply be 'switched on' and applied once in a blue moon because you must.

I applied and took my IAM test at the beginning of July and both enjoyed the test and the discussions with the Examiner prior and after test. It was noted that I have naturally, smooth riding was clearly of an advanced standard and was invited to consider continuing to Masters level.

I am very pleased to confirm that I did achieve a F1rst pass and can congratulate Mark on my being his F1rst ;-)

"Thank you to DAM for the expertise, time and effort provided to me leading to my successful pass of a F1rst"

"Mark was always clear and communicative and never let me down in both the quality of the sessions or attendance. He was willing and put in the time and effort to support me."

Karen Luker